

## ATTACKS GAS COMMISSION.

## PRESIDENT HUMPHREYS SAYS IT LACKS EXPERIENCE.

Head of Stevens Institute Finds Fault With the Way the State Has Undertaken to Regulate the Lighting Industry—Too Many Lawyers, Is One Complaint.

President A. C. Humphreys of Stevens Institute, Hoboken, took a fall out of the State Gas Commission, Gov. Higgins and the Legislature at a dinner of Columbia University civil engineer graduates at the Hotel Astor last night. President Humphreys was one of the experts who testified before the gas investigating committee at the dinner. There were about 150 civil engineers at the dinner.

"Let us," said President Humphreys, "consider a case of so-called reform near at home. In the case of a certain industry public clamor had been cultivated by the yellow journals and especially by the yellow journal. No doubt cause had been given for complaining, but the causes were specific, not general. But this was enough for the yellow journal to say that every feature of the management was wrong and that nothing was or could be fair or honest about the management."

"First, an investigation was had by a committee from Albany. This is generally spoken of as a 'most thorough investigation.' The thoroughness is seen when we find that upon the recommendation of this committee a law was passed requiring the company to distribute its product under conditions that would in the effort to conform thereto necessarily deprive a consumer of a satisfactory supply and even then the company would be subject to \$1,000 fine as often almost as the authorities cared to make the inspections."

"As the result of this investigation—which was so remarkable for its completeness—a law was passed to place this industry under the control of a commission. The business being one of much complexity, it was reasonable to expect that the Governor would not only try to appoint able and reputable men, but men already qualified to deal with the problems and be presented and men not subject to political pressure."

"The undertaking was a difficult one, even for a competent board—competent, I mean, by reason of particular training along specific lines. As nearly every branch of engineering is involved, should we not expect that on such a board there would be at least one engineer? As many questions of business policy and management are involved, should we not expect that there would be at least one member with a broad business experience? No—all three appointments, and all three apparently subject to political pressure."

"I wish it distinctly understood that I make no reflection on these gentlemen personally; I am finding fault only with the system. Furthermore, none of them apparently had had such a qualifying experience in commercial matters that they could really take in the full and true meaning of a statement of accountants. Fortunately there was a judge, and he had had experience in balancing conflicting evidence."

"Speaking from a fairly full and broad experience in such matters, I deliberately express the opinion that if such a board is to be recruited from one class or profession only—though there is no necessity for such a course—a better result could be obtained from a board composed of three engineers than from one composed of three lawyers, and especially if these engineers were accountants. I am confident that selected engineers are as competent to decide questions of law as selected lawyers are competent to decide questions of engineering."

"I am making no attack on lawyers or on politicians, but I claim that men who are called upon to act on matters so important and charged with technical details should have had previous experience to qualify them to act intelligently, and above all they should be under no political obligation."

"In this case, the course pursued is definitely open to criticism, for the Legislature which passed the bill, the Governor who appointed the members and the board put pressure upon the board to render a decision while the investigation was not yet completed. Finally, the board took the matter out of the hands of the board by passing a bill to cover some of the cases still under consideration."

"What a parody upon justice and what a reflection upon themselves in having first committed the matter to a board of their own making, presumably that the facts might be developed by a dispassionate and intelligent investigation as a guide to any action to be taken, and then taking the matter out of the hands of the board because the investigation necessarily took more time than the politicians believed to be necessary."

President Humphreys said that it was evident at the public clamor which had influenced the Legislature that was not cultivated even by the conscientious 'yellow journals' without there being a basis for complaint.

"But," asked the speaker, "do the complaints conduct themselves so as to give no reason for complaint? Do the 'yellow journals' conduct their affairs in a way to place them above reproach?"

"Might not the politicians who investigate sometimes be themselves investigated to advantage?"

"Do public servants under the control of politicians always perform their duties efficiently and are the results so obtained always economical?"

President Humphreys was not declared, trying to justify inefficiency and dishonesty, but he believed in fair play and discriminating criticism.

William Barclay Parsons was toastmaster. Other speakers were President Nicholas Murray Butler of Columbia and Henry F. Hornbostel, the architect.

## MURDERED IN HER HOME.

## A Knife Placed in Old Mrs. Wright's Hand After She Was Dead.

New Brunswick, April 14.—Mrs. Rachel Wright, aged 85, was found dead on the floor of her home on Division street, Old Bridge, this morning. Her throat was cut and a bloody knife was found in her lifeless hand, but there were blood marks all about the place, which would indicate that she was not alone when she died. The crime was committed in the centre of the village. There are a dozen houses within a stone's throw of the one occupied by Mrs. Wright and the body was discovered by little Willie Boice, who lives next door. Mrs. Wright, who was nearly blind, lived alone, and the Boices were accustomed to send milk over to her every morning. When the boy went this morning he found the doors open and going in saw Mrs. Wright's body on the floor of her sitting room.

Dr. J. C. Crandall says the wound could not have been inflicted by the woman herself. He thinks the knife was placed in her hand by the murderer before her flesh became rigid.

None of Mrs. Wright's neighbors heard any kind of a disturbance during the night. Mrs. Wright's body was fully dressed.

S. J. Treat, who keeps the Old Bridge Hotel, says he saw a couple of tramps prowling about his place shortly after 10 o'clock last evening. He ordered them away and they walked up Division street toward Mrs. Wright's home. Mr. Treat heard the dogs barking vigorously at that time, and heard no other kind of a disturbance. It is strongly suspected that the tramps burst in upon Mrs. Wright and killed her, after trying to extort money.

Mrs. Wright had no enemies about the community. She was a soldier's widow and was drawing a pension. She formerly kept an ice cream and candy store in Old Bridge.

## BROKE "SCAB" PRINTERS' NOSE.

## Magistrate Whittman Discharges Union Man With a Boasting.

Edward J. Stedder and Raymond Burnett are printers. Stedder, who is 17 years old and lives at 208 Smith street, Brooklyn, accused Burnett, who is 17 and lives at 340 East Eighty-third street, in the Tombs police court yesterday of breaking his nose.

"What did you break this young man's nose for?" asked Magistrate Whittman of Burnett.

"He said he'd knock my head off," Burnett replied.

"He struck me," said Stedder, "because I wouldn't join his union. I refused to join and went scabbing. I couldn't help support my mother by throwing up my job and doing nothing without an income."

"You have a perfect right to scab," Magistrate Whittman said emphatically. "and no union has a right to interfere with you. How long have you been on a strike?" he asked of Burnett.

"Since January 1," was the reply. "If your union has kept you from work since January 1, I ain't any friend of yours," said the Magistrate. "A union doesn't benefit a man when it keeps him out of work. I am going to discharge you because of your age, but if you are ever brought back here again I'll send you to the island for six months."

## DINNER TO DR. FULDA.

## German Writers Entertain the Dramatist at the Hotel Astor.

The "Verband Deutscher Schriftsteller in America," which is the German Authors' Club, gave a supper and symposium to Dr. Ludwig Fulda in the wine cellar of the Hotel Astor last night. There were present nearly one hundred German authors. Nearly every one had a "professor doctor" before his name. Among the professor doctors were Coar and Friedberg of Columbia, Keyser of the Normal College and Hugo Münsterberg of Harvard. Magistrate Wahlgast, Gustav Heinrichs and Dr. Louis Peiser were among those who are not professors.

Moritz Isidor, leading off as toastmaster, talked about the effect of German immigration and German thought on the development of the United States.

Dr. Fulda, responding to three loud "Hochs" and much sound, said he felt that he stood on the connecting link between the Old World and the New. He urged the German authors of the United States to touch the Americans of the literature of the fatherland and to teach the Germans at home, on the other hand, that their blood brethren here are not buying in ignorance. Dr. Fulda said that he felt that Fulda brings with him the atmosphere of European art and culture, and it is his duty to go back and tell Europe of our American progress in the arts and sciences.

## FRANCIS P. CHURCH'S FUNERAL.

## Many Friends of the Editor at the Services in the Church.

The funeral of Francis P. Church was held from the Church of the Transfiguration in East Twenty-ninth street yesterday. The pastor, the Rev. Dr. George C. Loughton, read the service for the dead and spoke in his prayer of the loss sustained in the death of Mr. Church.

The choir sang "Oh, Paradise" as a professional, and "Peace, Perfect Peace," for the recessional. Robert Campbell, the tenor soloist, sang "I Heard a Voice From Heaven." All the selections had been favorites of Mr. Church.

Besides the widow, the relatives who attended were Col. William C. Church, a brother, editor of the *Army and Navy Journal*; Mrs. Church, and their son Willard; Thomas O. Conant, editor of the *Baptist Examiner*; and Mrs. Conant, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Loud and Willard Stetson, cousins, and Mrs. John C. Church, a sister-in-law. Many of Mr. Church's friends of the Century Club, including John Bigelow, the president, and Thomas Hitchcock, Dean J. Howard Van Amringe of Columbia University, ex-Mayor Smith Ely, Edmund Lawrence Steadman, Paul Dana, Rev. C. P. Hughes and a number of Mr. Church's associates on THE SUN of past and present days were present.

The interment was at Tarrytown.

## Obituary Notes.

James W. Mather, the United States representative of Robert Fuller & Co. of Scotland, died on Friday at his residence, 467 West 14th street. He was born in Stanley, Scotland, fifty-eight years ago, and came to this country in 1867. He had charge of the dry-goods department for the Indian Reservation during Grover Cleveland's first administration, and for a number of years travelled through the South for a large importing company. He leaves a widow, two sons and one daughter.

Sidney H. Joseph, a travelling salesman, of 347 A. McDonough street, Brooklyn, died on Friday night in Frankfort, Ky., in his thirty-seventh year. He was a member of the Brooklyn Lodge of Elks and news of his death was telegraphed to his home by the lodge in Frankfort, which took charge of the body and forwarded it to Brooklyn. Mr. Joseph had been on a business tour in the South. He leaves a widow and three children.

William Pearson died in St. Joseph's Hospital in Yonkers on Friday night, less than seven hours after his wife, Rachel Anne Pearson, had died at their home in Willow place, Yonkers. Mr. Pearson was born in Saxtons River, N.Y., and followed the sea for many years. During his young manhood he captained many racing yachts. Later he was a ship and dock owner in Yonkers. Mr. and Mrs. Pearson are survived by three daughters.

Lyman Chamberlain Wilder, teacher, soldier, engineer and former Canal Commissioner under Gov. Follen, died Friday night in Washington. Friday, at the age of 78. He was a direct descendant of old Revolutionary stock, his family having been settlers in this state since 1630. He was the author of several historical pamphlets defending New York State's right to have the battle of Bennington returned to the battle of Walloomsburg, N.Y.

Shadrach J. Henderson, a lawyer, with offices at 27 Broadway, died yesterday from pneumonia at his home, 559 West 10th street. He was born in Knoxville, Tenn., sixty-five years ago and served in the Confederate Army. At the close of the war he went to Richmond, Va., and studied law, and eventually became the attorney for the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad. He came to New York in 1867. Mr. Henderson is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

James Fraser Masters, for over forty years the proprietor of the well-known sporting goods store in Court street near Joralemon, Brooklyn, died on Friday at his home in tenth avenue, Fort Hamilton street, in his sixty-seventh year. In 1861 he came to this country and settled in Ohio. He and soon opened the first sporting goods store in Brooklyn. He had a ranch in Oregon for the breeding of fine horses. He leaves two sons.

The Rev. Reuben Parsons, D. D., for thirteen years chaplain of St. Joseph's hospital in Yonkers, died there on Friday in his sixty-third year. He was the author of "Studies in Church History," a six-volume series, "Lives and Errors of History" and a "Universal History," ten volumes which were left incomplete. The funeral will be in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, this city, Monday morning at 10 o'clock.

Edward Q. Gunson, a veteran of the civil war and a retired business man of Washington, died at his home in Washington, Friday at the age of 81 years. He was born on the ocean while his parents were emigrating from England and settled in Ohio. At the outbreak of the war he enlisted in the Eighth Ohio Infantry and served to the close, being for a time an aide to Gen. Carroll.

The Rev. Leonidas E. Coyle, a retired Presbyterian minister, died at the home of his sister in Washington, Friday, at the age of 66 years. He was born in Washington, was graduated from Princeton University and Theological Seminary, and until seven years ago, when he retired, had charge of churches in various cities, the last being at Bridgeport, N.J.

Charles R. Eddy, 65 years of age, died suddenly in Glen Falls yesterday of heart failure. He operated a general grocery store in Glen Falls and vicinity and originated the Lake George Grocery, which served restaurants and hotels by means of a yacht. Mr. Eddy was well known by many Lake George summer visitors.

## Lord &amp; Taylor

## Fur Department.

We receive and place in Cold Storage Furs and Wearing Apparel of every description.

All garments hung on shoulders. Furs repaired, redyed or cleaned during summer months at moderate rates.

Estimates Given.

## Lord &amp; Taylor.

Broadway and Twentieth Street; Fifth Avenue; Nineteenth Street.

## BIG BALLOON DOES NOT GO UP.

## Count de La Vaulx Would Not Risk It in the Gusty Winds.

Count Henri de la Vaulx did not make his ascension in the big balloon Centaure at Pittsfield yesterday. The balloon was sent up to Pittsfield on Friday and the Count and members of the Aero Club followed with the intention of going as far as possible if the weather was favorable. The Count wanted to reach Boston or the coast. The Centaure is the largest of the Count's three balloons and it takes 55,000 cubic feet of gas to inflate it. This is about twice the capacity of the Orient and three times the capacity of the Ludion. The Centaure is the largest balloon ever inflated on this continent and it takes considerable skill to handle it.

The balloon was partly inflated at Pittsfield and then the Count suddenly decided to deflate it and not to make an ascension. This action caused some comment on the part of the spectators, who declared that the conditions were favorable to an ascension, but the Count would not risk his balloon.

Homer Hedge, the president of the Aero Club, Augustus Post, the treasurer, and Allan R. Hawley were to accompany the Count. As soon as the balloon was empty of gas and packed away the Count and members of the club returned to the city.

Cortlandt Field Bishop, who had Count de la Vaulx to dinner last night, said, speaking for the Count:

"The balloon Centaure is not owned by the Aero Club, but by Count de la Vaulx. The Count had intended making an ascension with his largest balloon, but he decided that the weather conditions for the day would have made it not only difficult but dangerous to try to attach the basket to so big a bag under the conditions and the Count did not care to risk his balloon. He has had more experience in ballooning than any one else who was there, and his experience should count for something."

In France, where ascensions are everyday affairs, the balloons are inflated in sheds and the baskets attached under cover.

"It was decided to return to New York because the weather predictions for tomorrow are wind and rain and the Count said he would wait until some time next week when the wind was more steady before making the ascension in the Centaure."

## P. R. R. BOOKS SAFE FOR A SPELL.

## Appeal Allowed on Order Directing Their Inspection by Coal Companies.

PHILADELPHIA, April 14.—The Pennsylvania Railroad to-day made its expected move to prevent accountants from inspecting its books and papers in the interests of the suit brought by the Mitchell Coal and Coke Company, the International Coal and Coke Company and the Webster Coal and Coke Company, who charge the railroad with illegal rebating to rival companies in which Pennsylvania Railroad officials are interested and with unlawful distribution of cars. Notwithstanding the Pennsylvania's move, counsel for the other companies believe that they can at once force an inspection of the railroad's books.

The move of the Pennsylvania was made to-day by its general solicitor, Francis I. Gowan, who filed with Clerk Borbeck of the United States Circuit Court an application for an appeal to the United States Court of Appeals from the order of the lower Federal court compelling the railroad company to open its books and papers to the inspection of auditors of the complainant companies.

The appeal was granted. The Court of Appeals does not sit until October. Former District Attorney George S. Graham and Joseph Gillen, who represent the complainant firms, say that they can prevent the delay.

"We think that we can prove that the court's order was peremptory," said Mr. Gillen to-day. "If we cannot do so and the appeal should stand, we will certainly not go to trial with the rebate cases next week as had been planned. We will move for an adjournment of the cases until a hearing has been had upon the appeal."

## LEFT PROPERTY TO A PRIEST.

## Relatives Object to the Probate of the Will of Patrick Dugan of Amsterdam.

AMSTERDAM, N. Y., April 14.—Patrick Dugan of this city, who died recently, left an estate valued at more than \$100,000. Dugan, in his will, left the bulk of his property to the Rev. Father Browne, pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church. To-day when the will was filed in the Surrogate's Court objections were made by relatives of Dugan to its being probated. The will was said to be incompetent and had been influenced.

Surrogate Dunlap was attorney for Dugan and drew his will and was one of the witnesses to the same. Two of the objectors of the will are nephews of Dugan. One is in Ireland and the other in New South Wales. The case was adjourned for a week.

## BOY UNHURT IN SMASHUP.

## Two Cars Grind Wagon to Splinters—Horse Unscathed Also.

In trying to dodge a southbound Madison avenue car between Seventy-third and Seventy-fourth streets last night Albert Cook, 14 years old, of 225 West Sixty-eighth street, swung the laundry wagon he was driving across the northbound tracks just in time to get rammed by a car going at full speed. The wreckage was caught between the north and south bound cars and the wagon was literally reduced to kindling wood. The horse was thrown from his feet and lay kicking on the debris beneath which the boy was buried.

Policeman Ryan of the East Sixty-seventh street police station heard the crash and turned in a call for an ambulance before hurrying to the scene. He got the horse to its feet and was pulling away the remains of the wagon when young Cook emerged from the ruins on the side furthest from the policeman, and getting to his feet started up the avenue at a great pace, yelling at the top of his lungs.

The ambulance surgeon came up at the same time, and the policeman, bound to have a patient for the doctor, gave chase to the boy. He caught Cook after a run of three blocks and led him back for examination. The doctor couldn't find a scratch.

The boy stopped crying when assured that he wasn't hurt and went off leading his horse, which had also escaped injury.

## OTTAWA GREETS ROYAL VISITOR.

## Prince Arthur of Connaught Welcomed to the Canadian Capital.

OTTAWA, Ont., April 14.—Prince Arthur of Connaught and his party arrived in the capital by special train at 6 o'clock this evening in the midst of a heavy downpour of rain, which seriously interfered with the comfort of the large crowd of citizens assembled to greet the royal visitor.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Prime Minister, and the members of his Cabinet and Col. Hanbury-Williams, representing the Governor-General, received the Prince. A guard of honor was provided by the Duke of Cornwall's Own Rifles.

After the royal salute the Prince and General Sir Thomas Kelly-Kenny formally inspected the corps. Then hurriedly entering their carriages, the party, escorted by a detachment of the Princess Louise Dragoons, drove to the Government House, where they were received by Earl Grey.

Prince Arthur will attend Christ Church Cathedral to-morrow and participate in numerous functions next week, leaving on Friday for Niagara Falls.

## Lord &amp; Taylor.

## Spring Opening

## Carpet Department

OUR new lines in Wiltons, Axminsters, Body Brussels, Wilton Velvets, &c., are the most extensive we have ever placed on exhibition, comprising a number of exclusive, private designs and colorings suitable for all grades of furnishings.

As a Special Inducement on this occasion, we offer the following standard grades:

20,000 yards Axminsters,

regularly sold at \$1.35 & \$1.50,

at 85c. & 97½c. per yard.

22,000 yards Body Brussels,

regularly sold at \$1.50,

at \$1.12½ per yard.

15,000 yards Wilton Velvets,

regularly sold at \$1.50,

at 97½c. per yard.

Intending purchasers of Carpets should not overlook these exceptional bargains.

Broadway and Twentieth St., Fifth Ave., Nineteenth St.

## Lord &amp; Taylor

## Monday, April 16th.

## Special Sale of

## Lingerie Waists, Kimonos

## and House Gowns.

## Lingerie Waists

Mull or Lawn, a variety of styles, trimmed with embroidery or fine Val. lace,

at \$2.50, \$2.95, \$4.95.

value \$3.75 to \$7.75.

## Kimonos &amp; House Gowns.

## House Gowns

Flowered Dotted Swiss and Fancy Flowered Mull

at \$3.95.

## Long Kimonos.

In Flowered Lawn at \$1.75.

In Flowered Dotted Swiss and Striped Mull. \$1.85

## Short Kimonos.

In Flowered Lawn. 75c

In Flowered Dotted Swiss. 98c

In Fancy Striped Mull. \$1.25

## Lord &amp; Taylor

Broadway and Twentieth St., Fifth Ave., Nineteenth St.

## Lord &amp; Taylor.

## Parasols

Novelties in Lingerie, hand embroidered Linon, Taffeta, plain, embroidered and flowered, at reasonable prices.

## Special Value

Linon, Pongee, finer quality of Taffeta, plain and bordered effects.

Handles of fine woods, plain and carved 2.95

## Fine Irish Satin

## Damask Table Cloths and Napkins

## Table Cloths

2 x 2 yds., 1.85, 2.80 and 3.45 2 x 3 yds., 2.80, 4.20 and 5.20

Regular 2.50, 4.00 and 5.00 Regular 3.75, 6.00 and 7.50

2 x 2½ yds., 2.35, 3.50 and 4.35 2½ x 2½ yds., 3.35 and 5.35

Regular 3.15, 5.00 and 6.25 Regular 4.50 and 7.50 grades.

Other sizes at proportionate prices.

Napkins to Match (dinner size).

2.75 and 4.95 doz., regular 3.75 and 7.25 grades.

## Towels

Homstitched Huckaback, at 3.00, 6.00 and 8.75

Regular \$4.00, \$9.00, \$12.00 doz.

## Hand Embroidered Pillow Cases

Pillow Cases, 500 Pairs Irish Linen, Hand Embroidered.

1.98; regular \$3.25 quality.

## Scalloped Linen Sheets and Pillow Cases

Pillow Cases, 4 Sheets, \$1.50 to \$5.75 pr. \$7.50 to \$21.50 pr.

## Special Sale of

## Summer Weight

## Blankets, Comfortables and Bedspreads

Blankets, 1.50 to 6.50 pair.

Regular \$2.00 to \$8.00 grades.

Comfortables, pure cotton filled, 95c to 1.75

Regular \$1.25 and \$2.50 grades.

Comfortables, pure lamb's wool filled, 2.35

Regular \$3.25 grades.

Marseilles Spreads, 2.15 and 3.00

Value \$3.25 and \$4.50.

## Cotton Sheets and Pillow Slips

About 25 cases of Muslin Sheets and Pillow Slips will be placed on sale Monday, April 16, at special prices. These are exceptional values.

## Silk Department

At this season of the year, when the scarcity of desirable silks becomes general, our Silk Department shows full assortments, and is exceptionally well provided with fashionable shades in all the rare colorings and weaves.

Moderate prices always prevail.

## Special Silk Counter

The following lots of desirable silks are offered at very attractive prices:—

Foulards, 200 pieces, in latest dots,

Regular value 75c. At 50c a yd.

Natural Pongees, 45 pieces 22 in.

Regular value 75c. At 58c a yd.

Men's Silk Shirtings, 27 in. wide, Spring Colorings.

Regular value \$1.45. At 75c a yd.

Warp Prints, 22 in. wide, beautiful effects in flowered patterns, Regular value \$1.75.